

Crown Railroad Busy Tramway In Early Years

(From "Making Paper," Feb. 1919)

It may not be generally known that, operating in connection with the Camas mill, is one of the busiest little railroads in the west.

The equipment of this road consists of three tramway motors, two of which are 40 horsepower and the other two, 15 h.p. each. There are 41, 24-foot flat cars; 16, 30-foot cars and one with a length of 34 feet.

One tower car for trolley repair and construction, and one car whacker, Ed Paris, the best on earth. A daily average tonnage of 290 tons is handled by this equipment. There are also four dump cars which Claud Smith says were shipped direct to Camas the day they were exhumed from the ruins of Pompeii.

Mr. Smith, being interested in their history, said he found, by following the matter up, that the Pompeiians had borrowed the cars from the Egyptians, where they had been used in the construction of the pyramids, but just where the Egyptians got them is lost in pre-historic mist.

(Claud said this, and then went home to lunch, after which he felt better.)

FIRST SAWMILL

The first sawmill on the Pacific Coast was erected by Dr. John McLoughlin, Hudson's Bay company factor, on a small stream about eight miles west of Camas. The water-powered mill could produce 3,000 board feet per two-shift day.

EZRA MEEKER

Ezra Meeker recorded Vancouver of 1876 as having 959 residents. "Ships of any size can ascend the river with safety to this place."